

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-60. (canceled)

61. (previously presented) A method of treating a degenerative cartilaginous disorder in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist antibody or fragment thereof that binds the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6 to said mammal suffering from said disorder.

62. (canceled)

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said polypeptide is encoded by ATCC deposit number PTA-1185.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is osteoarthritis.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is psoriatic arthritis.

67. (canceled)

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 68 wherein said antibody is a human antibody.

70-75 (cancelled)

76. (previously presented) A method of treating a degenerative cartilaginous disorder comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist antibody or fragment thereof wherein said antibody or fragment a) binds to a polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:6 and b) inhibits the loss of cartilage.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is osteoarthritis.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said degenerative cartilaginous disorder is psoriatic arthritis.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a human antibody.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a humanized antibody.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said antibody is a chimeric antibody.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said fragment is a Fv, Fab, Fab', or F(ab')₂ fragment.

85. (cancelled)

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 76 wherein said fragment is a Fv, Fab, Fab', or F(ab')₂ fragment.